

REMARKS

At the outset, applicants would like to thank Examiner Therkorn for his time and consideration of the present application at the interview of October 30, 2003 with Mr. Knut Irgum, Ms. Olivia Tolan, Mr. Mikael Bergstrand, and the undersigned attorney.

At the interview, the contentions of the outstanding Official Action were discussed. Applicants believe that it was agreed upon that inserting the recitation "selected from the group consisting of polymers made from mono- or oligo-vinyl monomers and carbohydrates other than cellulose" into the claims would place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 15-23 and 28-38 are pending in the present application. Independent claims 15, 31 and 36 have been amended.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite a sorbent suitable for use as a stationary phase in elution chromatography, the core of the sorbent consisting of an organic resin consisting from the group consisting of polymers made from mono- or oligo- vinyl monomers and carbohydrates other than cellulose, and wherein a plurality of non-aromatic zwitterionic groups are covalently bonded on the surface of said sorbet.

Claim 31 has been amended to recite a sorbent with a core consisting of an organic resin selected from the group consisting of polymers made from mono- or oligo- vinyl monomers

and carbohydrates other than cellulose; a sorbent surface; and a plurality of non-aromatic zwitterionic groups covalently bonded to said surface, and wherein said sorbent has selective sorption properties so that said sorbent can be used as a stationary phase in chromatographic separations.

Claim 36 has been amended to recite a sorbent suitable for use as a stationary phase in elution chromatography, comprising a core consisting of an organic resin selected from the group consisting of polymers made from mono- or oligo-vinyl monomers and carbohydrates other than cellulose; a sorbent surface; and a plurality of non-aromatic zwitterionic groups covalently bonded to the surface.

Thus, it is believed that the cited publications, alone or in combination with each other, fail to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, with claims 15-23 and 28-38, as presented.

Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are accordingly respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of August 15, 2003
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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